

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant's counsel wishes to thank the Examiner for discussing the application on March 15, 2004. While no agreement on allowable subject matter was reached, applicant's counsel gained a greater appreciation of the Examiner's position, and the Examiner stated that he was awaiting receipt of this Response.

In the final Office Action mailed January 14, 2004, claims 1-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as to scope of enablement. Independent method claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the claimed method is directed to "detecting the presence of at least one antibody to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens." Similarly, independent claim 11 has been amended to claim a kit "for detecting at least one antibody to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens." In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are enabled by the specification and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Claim 6 was objected to for the informality of missing "of" between the words "mixture" and "two." Claim 6 has been clarified by amendment and now claims "of" between the words "mixture" and "two." Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to claim 6 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-29 are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is

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invited to contact the undersigned if it is deemed necessary to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted

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Date: March 15, 2004

By:



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